

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 049602

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO GENEVA ANKARA BONN LONDON

OTTAWA ROME VIENNA USUN NEW YORK NATO DTD 28 FEB 1976 QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 06015

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, SHUM, FR

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) --- RESOLUTION
ON CSCE

REFS: (A) PARIS 5646; (B) BONN 3284

1. EMBASSY BONN INROMED US BY PHONE MORNING 27
FEBRUARY THAT FRENCH DELEGATE HAD JUST TOLD EC CAUCUS
IN GENEVA HE WOULD ABSTAIN ON NON-LIGNED CSCE RESO-
LUTION IN UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, AND THAT THIS
HAD LED TO SOLID WESTERN DECISION TO ABSTAIN. WE
IMMEDIATELY COMPLAINED TO QUAI UN AFFAIRS OFFICER
BIRON (IN ABSENCE ST. LEGIER), STRESSING THAT WE AT-
TACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THIS VOTE. BIRON WAS
SOMEWHAT EVASIVE AND MENTIONED NEED FOR GOF TO BE IN-
FORMED OF ATTITUDES OF ITS EC PARTNERS BEFORE SENDING
FRENCH DELEGATE HIS "DEFINITIVE" INSTRUCTIONS. WE
INSISTED THAT, AS REPORTED REFTEL A, ST. LEGIER HAD
GIVEN US UNEQUIVOCAL ASSURANCE FEBRUARY 25 THAT
FRANCE WOULD VOTE NO, ADDING THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO
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INTERVENE AT HIGHER LEVEL IN QUAI IF NECESSARY.

2. BIRON LATER CALLED US BACK TO ANNOUNCE THAT ALL THIS HAD FINALLY RESULTED IN WESTERN DELEGATES IN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION SWITCHING TO UNANIMOUS NEGATIVE VOTE, WHEREAS ORIGINALLY ALL BUT US WERE TENDING TOWARD ABSTENTION. WE THANKED HIM FOR USEFUL ROLE FRANCE HAD PLAYED.

3. COMMENT: THIS EXERCISE APPARENTLY SHOWS THAT NAILING KEY VOTE SUCH AS FRANCH CAN ACTUALLY REVERSE A STRONG TREND AGAINST US. OUR GUESS IS THAT FRENCH DELEGATE ON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION WAS TRYING TO PULL A FAST ONE, PERHAPS SIMPLY OUT OF SOLIDARITY WITH HIS EC COLLEAGUES WHO FOR ONCE WERE BEING MORE DOVISH THAN HE. IF SO IT DEMONSTRATES THE IMPORTANCE OF INSTANTANEOUS INTER-COMMUNICATION BETWEEN US MISSIONS INVOLVED IN SUCH MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS. ALSO, IT STRENGTHENS OUR HOPE THAT USG WILL EXPRESS THANKS AS SUGGESTED REFTEL A. RUSH UNQTE INGERSOLL

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